

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 66%

Mostly Cloudy

Sensex 81,086 | Nifty 24,823 | Gold 71,770 | Silver 85,175 | Dollar 83.81 | Euro 93.90 | GBP 110.73



MARKET MEMORABILIA

Pottery shards, Roman coins, artifacts, and inscriptions offer sneak peek into fascinating history of KR Market

PAGE 2



FOR THE OTHER HALF

Traffic police plan measures to ensure city roads become safer for women at night, but experts wonder if deterrence is enough

PAGE 3

With over 4 tree offence cases getting registered each month in BBMP limits, experts call for stricter action and implementation of rules

DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS

26 cases registered between April and August this year so far

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On average, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) registers a little over four tree offence cases every month across the city.

According to data from the Forest Department of BBMP, while 46 forest offence cases were filed in 2023-24, as many as 26 offence cases have been registered between April and August this year so far.

The majority of the cases have been registered from the Bengaluru South zone, followed by Dasarahalli and Bengaluru East zones.

City-based environmentalists and tree activists say this is a gross misrepresentation of the actual number of tree offences in the city. "Just in our locality, we come across at least one unlawful act against trees every month. These felonies range from trimming or cutting branches to axing a tree altogether. Four cases a month from across the city is a low number," said a tree activist from Indiranagar.

Lack of legal awareness of the issue and clarity on appropriate authority that can deal with such offences are prime reasons behind the low number of cases filed.

"More often than not, people are not aware of the legal aspects. Those who are aware are unclear about



“Sometimes these matters are resolved without filing cases. Moreover, even if complaints are raised by citizens, the forest cell doesn't necessarily act on all of them

— Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust

whom to reach out to. Even when they approach the department and officials concerned, slow or no response from them

leads to low reporting of such cases. Sometimes these matters are resolved without filing cases. Moreover, even if complaints are

raised by citizens, the forest cell doesn't necessarily act on all of them," said Dattatreya Devare, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>**

Angry young (mostly) men

We speak to experts to understand what is the driving force behind rage on city's roads



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Every other day, a new instance of road rage from the city goes viral on social media. From physical threats to deadly pursuits, Bengaluru's roads have become a pressure cooker of frustration, leading to aggressive behaviour that endangers lives.

Last Wednesday, one such incident turned fatal with the death of 24-year-old S Mahesh. According to police officials, Mahesh was chased by a car that his bike had collided into. The pursuit ended in tragedy in the GKVK layout, where Arvind intentionally rammed his car into Mahesh's bike, causing him to crash into a house compound wall.

BM spoke to experts to understand what triggers such incidents of violence on the roads. Dr. Asfia Khaleel, consultant psychiatrist at Vasavi Hospital, says the increase in road rage incidents can be attributed to a range of factors. "The rise in road rage in Bengaluru is a multifaceted issue. Traffic congestion, poor road infrastructure, rapid population growth, and the stress of daily life all contribute to this growing problem. Addressing these issues often involves improving traffic management, road infrastructure, and public awareness about safe driving practices," she explains.

Another incident from Doddakannelli on Sarjapur Main Road was captured on video. The disturbing footage shows him hurling a stone at a car window, causing terror among the occupants, including

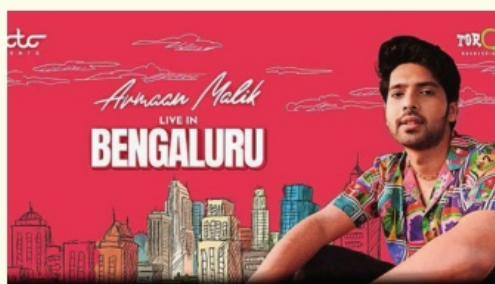
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

3 THINGS TO DO



01 Devotional mesmerism

Celebrate Krishna Janmashtami with devotional, classical songs by Siddharth and Maanya. Renowned for his mastery in Hindustani classical music, Siddharth's deep, resonant voice and command over various ragas create a deeply emotional and connected experience. Experience the soulful melodies of Maanya Arora, her mastery in Hindustani ragas and emotive vocals create a harmonious connection with the audience. Join to celebrate the divine friendship through Siddharth and Maanya's enchanting artistry. **Where:** KTPO Trade Centre, Whitefield; **When:** August 26, 6.45 pm



02 Live concert

Join for an unforgettable evening as the sensational Armaan Malik takes the stage. From chart-topping hits to heart-melting songs, Armaan Malik's performance promises to be a musical journey like no other. Feel the magic in the air as he enchants the audience with his extraordinary voice and captivating presence. Don't miss out on this memorable opportunity to witness Armaan Malik's extraordinary talent live in Bengaluru. Get ready for an evening of pure bliss. **Where:** Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru; **When:** September 15, 6.30 pm

03 Open mic



'Rock the Stage' is an exhilarating Open Mic Night - Edition 99 hosted by My School Of Rock, designed for music enthusiasts, poets, singers, and comedians. Embrace your passion and showcase your talent on a platform where creativity knows no bounds. It's open for all talents; bring your instruments and let your melodies captivate the audience, share your verses and take us on a poetic journey, enthrall us with your voice from ballads to rock anthems or make us laugh with your wit and humor. **Where:** My School of Rock; **When:** September 1 and 8, 5.30 pm

KR Market: A blast from the past

From hosting Roman coins to housing Bahadur Khan's tomb to Tipu's Summer Palace, KR market is rich with tales of Bengaluru's growth

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The next time you find yourself stepping off or boarding a train at KR Market Metro station, take a moment to reflect on its rich historical significance. This location, steeped in centuries of history, once hosted Roman coins that confirm trade with Rome centuries ago. Shyam Kodavathi, a former software engineer now delving into Bengaluru's past, led a KR Market walk on Sunday to unveil the fascinating history of this area.

Imagining the past might seem challenging, but Shyam described how the KR Market Metro station area was once characterised by rocky terrain, thorny bushes, dense thickets, and numerous water bodies. Discoveries of pottery shards, Roman coins, artifacts, and inscriptions indicate that Bengaluru evolved from a prehistoric settlement into a trading hub during Roman times.

The tour continued at the Vani Vilas Institute, adjacent to the metro station and established in 1868 as the city's oldest girls' school. Shyam then led the group to the tomb of Bahadur Khan, a commander-in-chief under Tipu Sultan. Renowned for his bravery, Khan fought valiantly against British soldiers, even as he was fatally wounded. In recognition of his heroism, Lord Cornwallis returned Khan's body to Tipu Sultan, who mourned deeply and remarked, "A soldier should be buried where he fell." The tomb which is located next to the KR Market bus stand today marks the place where he had died and then a tomb built



Fresh flowers at KR Market are brought by vendors at as early as 3 am, and the whole market is filled with variety of flowers with strong fragrances everyday by 6-7 in the morning



in honour of him.

The walk proceeded to KR Market, where the vibrant flower market showcases a tapestry of colours. The historical depth of KR Market is notable. It was once a water tank named Siddikatte after Siddi, a woman from the Kempegowda family. The Mamulpet Market specialised in household and commercial plastic goods, while Chickpet Chowk was where the Doddapete and Chickpet avenues intersected in the 16th century. The Chickpet Silk Market remains a wholesale hub for traditional silk fabrics and sarees.

The next stop was the Bangalore Fort, Kempegowda, a feudatory of the Vijayanagar Empire, founded and fortified the city in 1537 AD, naming it Bangalore. In 1689 AD, the Mughals leased the city to the Mysore King Chikkadevaraya, who expanded the existing fort southward and constructed the Sri Venkataramana temple within its boundaries. By 1758, Hyder Ali had secured Bengaluru as a jagir and



further enhanced and strengthened it by 1761 AD. Lord Cornwallis captured the fortified city in 1791 AD but returned it to Tipu Sultan the following year under the Srirangapatna Treaty. The original fort was oval-shaped, featuring round bastions and significant gateways such as Delhi Bagilu (Gate) and Yelahanka Bagilu in the north, Ulsur Bagilu in the east, Kanakanahalli Bagilu and Mysore Bagilu in the south, and Kengeri Bagilu in the west. Although remnants of these gateways still exist, the fort was once encircled by a dry moat. Today, only a section of the fort remains intact, which includes a dungeon and a small Ganesha temple. This area features three successive gateways that once connected the royal enclosure to the civilian area. The granite walls, adorned with elegant stucco carvings, are still visible. A tablet embedded in the wall marks the location where Lord Cornwallis breached the fort. Additionally, the dungeon holds historical significance as

Tipu Sultan mourned and remarked, "A soldier should be buried where he fell," and there stands the tomb of Bahadur Khan, Tipu's army chief

it was where Sir David Baird and other Englishmen were confined prior to 1785 AD, as noted on a tablet displayed there.

The fort offers a wealth of intrigue for history enthusiasts. Among its features are several dungeons, including a particularly dark chamber where British prisoners were kept. The fort's outer walls are impressively thick, measuring up to three meters in width. The doors, crafted from teak wood, remain remarkably sturdy. Experts note that this teak wood was submerged in Cauvery water for two years before being used to construct the fort's doors, a process that contributed to their exceptional durability.

The walk led to Tipu Sultan Summer Palace, started by Hyder Ali and completed by Tipu Sultan in 1791. This wooden summer residence also served as Lord Cornwallis's office. The final destination was the Tipu Armoury behind Bangalore Medical College, rounding out a journey through Bengaluru's historical tapestry.

Veterinarians save injured jungle cat

Ajungle cat struck by a vehicle near Peenya, close to the Jarakbandi Forest, has been saved after an urgent surgical intervention. The cat was found injured at 1.00 am by a local volunteer, Vasanth, who immediately contacted People for Animals (PFA) for assistance. "Our priority was to ensure

the cat's immediate stabilisation," said Rahul J, Curator at PFA Wildlife Hospital.

The cat was carefully examined by Colonel Dr Navaz Shariff, Chief Wildlife Veterinarian, who quickly assessed the severity of its injuries. The cat had suffered a complicated fracture of its mandibular symphysis—

a break in its jawbone—along with multiple lacerations on its forelimb and head. Dr Navaz advised immediate surgery due to the seriousness of these injuries.

The operation was conducted by a skilled veterinary team led by senior veterinarian Dr Madhav, along with Dr Dhanush. Post-surgery, the cat was given

pain relief and antibiotics to support its recovery. The jungle cat has now been moved to a larger enclosure, where its recovery is being closely monitored. The veterinary team continues to watch the healing of the cat's jaw and overall progress. Once the six-year-old jungle cat is fully recovered and able to survive in the wild, it will be released back into its natural habitat.

— BMB

Can traffic police measures help women reclaim city?

Strict checks, including policewomen in night patrol and more — but deterrence is not all, long-term action needed, say experts

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Several incidents of rape and sexual assault reported just this month from the city have caused alarm. According to official data released by the city police last month, the number of these crimes has been on an upward trend. In response to the growing concerns, the traffic police have implemented several measures aimed at curbing such incidents. Following the recent sexual assault case in HSR Layout, where safety lapses were highlighted, traffic police inspectors and staff have taken up different measures to fight this issue. But activists say deterrence is not the solution.

How new measures will help

Siri Gowri, DCP Traffic North, told BM that in the case of the HSR Layout incident, there were no women police personnel at that point of time and hence having women police personnel at night on duty would help in such cases. "Adding women officers to night shifts is essential because male officers often hesitate to intervene in

"We should involve women's groups, civic bodies and civil society groups in doing regular safety audits to identify risky areas. Government and police must take long-term and sustainable actions"



situations involving women. Having female personnel on duty ensures smoother operations, especially when handling women victims or accused during night rounds," she said.

With regards to the increase in the drink and drive checks, she pointed out how buying and consumption of alcohol has become easy and it is to check this that there is an increase in the drink and drive checks. "Earlier drink and drive

checks used to be from Friday to Saturday and if required on Saturday night also, but now we have started it from Thursday because many corporate offices stop functioning on Thursday and from Friday, they have a long weekend and work from home," she stated, adding that this shift will act as a deterrent.

The Joint Commissioner of Police MN Anucheth also issued a few measures and instructions that are supposed to be followed by the offi-

cers and staff on night duties. In the traffic police inspectors and staff meeting, which was conducted recently, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was issued to ensure stricter enforcement.

The city Traffic Police on Saturday conducted a special drive to curb the menace of drunken driving and ensure road safety. The operation involved 161 police officers and 536 staff members from 50 traffic police stations across the city. During the drive, a total of 18,769 vehicles were checked, resulting in 324 cases being registered against motorists and riders found driving or riding under the influence of alcohol.

More fundamental approach needed

Women's rights activist Madhu Bhushan from Gamana Women's collective told BM that a more fundamental and sustainable approach is needed to curb such issues. "Making the city safer for women requires more than just knee-jerk reactions to individual incidents. Cities like Mumbai have included gender safety as a core component of city planning and we should do that too," she said. She also questioned the disappearance of Pink Hoysalas that used to patrol the streets regularly when the safe city measures were put into place with the Nirbhaya Funds.

She added that the helplines and emergency numbers need to work reliably. "We should involve women's groups, civic bodies and civil society groups in doing regular safety audits to identify risky areas and ensure lasting changes. The government and police must take sustainable, long-term actions when it comes to the safety of women, enabling them to move freely and be present in larger numbers in public spaces," she said.

Darshan's photo sparks debate



A photograph of actor Darshan, accused in the murder of Renukaswamy, laughing and smoking inside Parappana Agrahara Central Jail has gone viral, sparking outrage. BJP MLC N Ravikumar strongly condemned the jail authorities and the police for allegedly giving Darshan special treatment.

Reports suggest that the individuals accompanying Darshan in the photo include Wilson Garden Naga, a known rowdy sheeter, along with Nagaraj, the actor's manager and co-accused, and Kulla Seena. However, there has been no official confirmation about whether the photo was taken inside the jail, at another location, or if it has been altered.

The image has prompted Kashinath S Shivanagowdru, the father of Renukaswamy, to call for an investigation.

He expressed his concerns, saying, "This photo raises questions about whether Darshan is truly in jail. The conditions depicted seem more like a resort than a prison. The jail should be a place of confinement." **BMB**

Cab driver kills self

A 37-year-old cab driver is said to have taken his own life at his home in Kamakshipalya on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Arun Kumar. It is said Kumar was struggling to repay a huge amount of personal loan due to which he was depressed.

According to the police, Kumar had left a note explaining his financial troubles. Police officials also said that Kumar was caring for his 73-year-old bedridden mother, who passed away just two hours before his death.

Arun had two other siblings who were married and lived separately. The Kamakshipalya Police have registered the case. **BMB**

Ride cancellations, surge pricing among cab users' major pet peeves

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A survey conducted by LocalCircles, a well-known community social media platform, has exposed significant discontent among Bengaluru's cab users regarding popular ride-hailing services. The report that gathered consumer feedback over an eight-month period, reveals that more than 80% of users have expressed concerns about ride cancellations and surge pricing by major aggregators such as Ola and Uber.

According to the survey, 85% of

Uber users have encountered issues such as drivers cancelling rides, talking on their mobile phones while driving, and excessive surge pricing.

Ola users faced similar problems, with 93% of Ola users reported unclean vehicles, drivers talking on mobile phones during rides, and surge pricing as their primary complaints.

The survey, which aimed to gauge the opinions of Bengaluru residents about Uber, Ola, and BluSmart, received more than 10,000 responses from a demographic consisting of 59% men and 41% women. Throughout the year, many Uber passengers have expressed their grievances on social media, including over-



charging and malfunctioning air conditioning, often resulting in heated arguments with drivers.

Some positives

Despite the negative feedback, the survey also highlighted some positive aspects of Uber's service.

As many as 62% appreciated the ease of booking and availability, while 38% found the drivers to be courteous. Moreover, 23% of the respondents were happy with the cleanliness of the cars.

In contrast, Ola customers faced various issues, with 78% of Ola customers complained about surge pricing, 62% mentioned ride cancellations, and 54% found the drivers to be discourteous. Additionally, 47% of the respondents felt that customer service was unresponsive, and 23% raised safety concerns with drivers.

BluSmart, a relatively new player in Bengaluru's ride-hailing market, also received criticism from its users.

The report indicates that 61% of BluSmart customers faced one or more issues in the past year, with the most common complaints being drivers talking on mobile phones, lack of courtesy, and unresponsive customer service.

Furthermore, many users reported that BluSmart drivers often arrived earlier than scheduled and repeatedly called the customers, causing inconvenience.

Other issues included being forced to book rentals instead of point-to-point rides, which 21% of the respondents considered too expensive.

Dhobi ghat awaits its brand new machines

Around 70 washermen families on Lazar Road will soon benefit from ₹2 crore BBMP upgrade that they have been waiting to get for long

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Approximately 70 washermen families who rely on Lazar Road Dhobi Ghat for their livelihood are set to receive much-needed relief soon. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) plans to install washing machines at an estimated cost of Rs 2 crore. Once implemented, this upgrade will eliminate the need for manual washing at the dhobi ghat.

The BBMP Executive Engineer (Sarvagna Nagar) issued a tender for installing machines at Lazar Road Dhobi Ghat on August 16. Bidders must submit their completed tender documents by September 18.

Lazar Road Dhobi Ghat will be the fifth dhobi ghat to feature automatic washing machines. The first dhobi ghat to install these machines was Malleswaram Dhobi Ghat, which was inaugurated by then-Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa in December 2009. Other dhobi ghats with automatic washing machines are located in Nagarabhatti, Rajajinagar, and Srinagar.



Lazar Road Dhobi Ghat will be the fifth dhobi ghat in city to get automatic washing machines

"It will be a great relief and help for around 70 families that depend on this dhobi ghat to continue their tradition of washing clothes. The proposal of installing automatic washing machines at this dhobi ghat is pending for quite some time. I urge the authorities concerned to install the automatic washing machines as early as possible," said a washerman pleading anonymity.

He said the construction of residential quarters for washermen is in progress on the dhobi ghat premise. "The construction of 48 residential quarters is in progress. I hope the contractor will complete the construction work without any delay," he said. Meanwhile, Belli Nagaraj,

“It will be great relief for families that depend on this dhobi ghat. I urge authorities to install washing machines soon

— Washerman

president of the Malleswaram Dhobi Ghat Washermen Association has said that around 190 washermen families are depending on the dhobi ghat at Malleswaram for washing clothes. "We have employed four people to handle the automatic washing machines. We collect Rs 1.50 per cloth for washing. Ironing

of clothes is being done by washermen. On average, one washerman can have 600 clothes washed and ironed per day as against 100 clothes. The dhobi ghat gets an electricity bill of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.50 lakh per month," said Belli Nagaraj.

Meanwhile, Mahalingaiah, president of Karnataka State Madikatte Units, said that the association sent a proposal to the government to allocate Rs 20 crore but the government has sanctioned Rs 5 crore for the welfare of washermen. "There are 30 dhobi ghats in Bengaluru. I urge the authorities concerned to modernise all the dhobi ghats in the city for the benefit of washermen families," said Mahalingaiah.

New underground bazaar opens in city

After a lengthy wait, Bengaluru's first underground market, modelled after Delhi's Palika Bazaar, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday. Named Sri Krishnadevaraya Palike Bazaar, the market is situated near the Vijayanagar metro station and boasts 79 shops.

The market features granite flooring, three sensor-equipped glass sliding doors, two escalators, and goods lift facilities. Currently, 26 units are available for use.

In addition, the market has an electrical room, a store, and an office room, with a total of 8 entry and exit points for easy access. Each shop is equipped with fire extinguishers, and the market features proper ventilation and lighting. Under the Nagarothana project, the first phase was constructed for Rs 5 crore, and the second phase was built for Rs 8 crore. The new underground corporation market measures 100 metres in length and 11 metres in width, with 3 main pathways, and shops are arranged on both sides of the pedestrian path. To prevent rainwater from entering the market, a separate



Palike Bazaar features 79 stalls, 31 air-conditioning units, 1 lift, 2 escalators, 2 transformers; it includes 8 entrances, 145 lights, and fire extinguishers in each stall

pipeline has been installed around it to direct the water to the main road drain.

A BBMP official said, "This project is South India's first air-conditioned market, and boasts a total estimated cost of ₹13 crore. The Palike Bazaar occupies a total area of 1165 square meters, with a length of 136 metres and an approximate width of 11 metres. Each stall in the market covers an average of 9.0 square metres. The key features of the Palike



Bazaar include 79 stalls, 31 air-conditioning units (5 outdoor and 26 indoor), and essential infrastructure such as 1 lift with a 0.75-ton capacity and 2 escalators. To support the market's operations, 2 transformers with a 250 kVA capacity have been installed. The bazaar also includes 8 entrances, 145 electric lights, and fire extinguishers in each stall for safety. The new market is set to benefit the residents of the Vijayanagar and Govindarajanagar Assembly constituencies, providing a modern and comfortable shopping environment for the community."

The project has been underway for a long time, with construction starting in December 2019. Originally



nally a bustling market with over 150 vendors selling vegetables, flowers, and daily essentials, the service road was cleared in December 2017 to pave the way for the new underground market. The 100-meter-long, 11-meter-wide space now includes more than 75 shops on each side of a 3-meter-wide pedestrian passage.

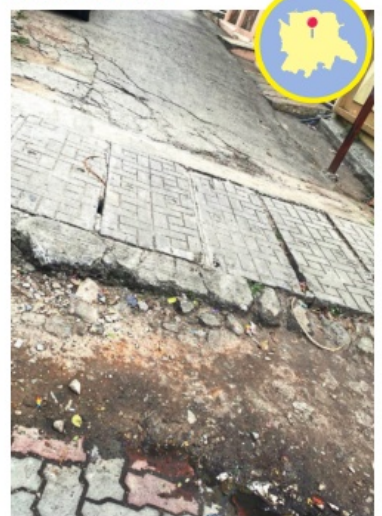
The BBMP has replaced the street bazaar in Vijayanagar with this underground AC market. "Several street vendors selling vegetables and household items have operated on the service road adjacent to Vijayanagar metro station for many years. Therefore, the decision was made to build an air-conditioned bazaar for their benefit."

— BMB

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Footpath woes Frazer Town



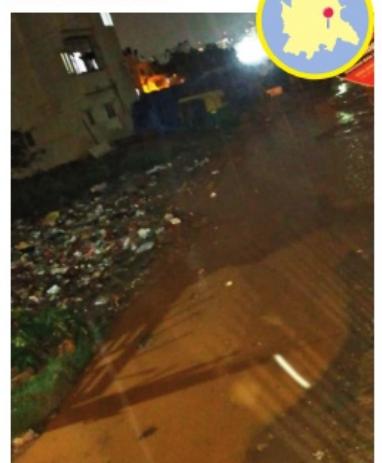
The footpath beside the Jockey store on Coles Road, Frazer Town, is deteriorating.

Unattended garbage Victoria Layout



Uncollected garbage has been blocking the crossroad near Government Urdu School, Victoria Layout for 14 days, attracting crows and rats, and creating numerous problems for the area.

Flooded road Munnekollal



The road at 3rd Cross near LNS Temple in Munnekollal is constantly flooded. Every time it rains, pedestrians are forced to wade through the water.

BESCOM to go digital: UPI payments coming soon

Electricity utility tells High Court that UPI payments for all transactions will be available in six to eight months, addressing court's earlier concerns about delay

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The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) informed the Karnataka High Court on Friday that it will in-

troduce a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for all types of payments within six to eight months. The court had previously requested BESCOM to explain why UPI payment options were not available for all transactions.

In response, BESCOM's managing director, Mohantesh Bilgai, filed an affidavit stating that the RAPDRP scheme had been upgraded to the Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) through the development of software and hardware. Phase one of this project was completed in March 2024 and stabilised by the end of April 2024. As a result, online payment facilities are not currently extended for non-fast track schemes in RAPDRP/IPDS areas.

The affidavit further explained that



all new features and enhancements are being incorporated in the upcoming phases of the IPDS scheme, and the facility of online payment for non-fast track services will be provided as part of these enhancements within six to eight months.

During the hearing, Justice NS NJ

Korra orally remarked, "Everybody's doing it immediately nowadays. Does it require months for you to do? What you are saying is long-term, but why can't you do something temporarily? Somebody wants to give you the money. The government is screaming from the rooftop that you should go digital and you want to go back to collect currency notes. Every grocer now has a scanner and you cannot give the petitioner a QR code to make the payment. Court was the slowest in adopting technology and you are even worse than us," the court orally said.

BESCOM's general manager of the IT department submitted that providing scanners at counters would require a tender process, which would take time. The petitioner's advocate sought

time to file a reply to BESCOM objections, and the high court scheduled the matter for further hearing on August 13.

The petitioner, Sitalakshmi, had approached the court seeking a direction to BESCOM to provide a prepayment meter as per section 47 of the Electricity Act 2003 and accept payment via UPI as provided for in the KERC regulations. In its objections to the petition, BESCOM claimed that Sitalakshmi had filed three applications seeking additional load without making payments and had been consuming zero units of power for the past year. BESCOM argued that without meeting the requirements, she had been filing multiple petitions before the high court.

Finally, the missing link is connected

Long-awaited foot-over-bridge linking metro and railway stations in KR Puram opens, but lack of lifts and signages has left commuters asking for more

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After repeated delays and much anticipation, the foot-over-bridge (FoB) linking Krishnarajapuram (KR Puram) Railway Station and KR Puram Metro Station is finally complete and open to the public. This crucial infrastructure, aimed at improving intermodal connectivity in the area, was developed by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) in collaboration with the Railways, Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), and the Traffic Police.

The newly inaugurated FoB, which connects the Blue and Purple Metro lines, is expected to significantly ease the daily commute for thousands of pedestrians who risked their lives crossing the busy road separating the railway and metro stations. For years, the lack of a proper pedestrian crossing raised safety concerns, forcing commuters to navigate through chaotic traffic to reach their destinations.

Despite the FoB's completion, a few tasks remain. The installation of lifts, essential for elderly and differently-abled passengers, is still pending. Additionally, proper signage to guide pedestrians through the FoB has not yet been installed, which may confuse first-time users.

Citizens have expressed mixed feelings about the development. While many are relieved that the bridge is finally open, there are concerns about the absence of lifts and clear signage.

A daily commuter who uses the railway shared his thoughts, "It's a big relief that the FoB is finally open. Earlier, crossing the road was a nightmare, especially during peak hours. But the lack of lifts is disappointing. People who have difficulty in walking will struggle without a lift."

Another passenger said, "The FoB is a



After much delay, the foot-over-bridge linking KR Puram Railway Station to KR Puram Metro station was finally opened to public

great initiative, and much safer now. But without lifts, it's still not fully accessible for everyone. I hope the authorities prioritise completing the lifts as soon as possible."

The delays in finishing the FoB were mainly caused by difficulties in installing the I-girders at the concourse level. Work began in May and was completed by June, allowing the bridge to finally open to the public.

The authorities have assured that the pending work, including the lift installations and signage, will be completed soon. Meanwhile, pedestrians are cautiously optimistic, appreciating the safety improvements but urging the completion of the remaining tasks.

“It's a big relief that the FoB is finally open. Earlier, crossing the road was a nightmare, especially during peak hours. But the lack of lifts is disappointing

—Passenger

KAS exam hullabaloo

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The gazetted probationers' exams have been embroiled in controversy for some time, with the latest issue stemming from allegations made by senior IAS officer K Atheeq, the Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister. On Sunday, Atheeq revealed that a group of Karnataka Administrative Service aspirants is aggressively pushing for the postponement of the exam scheduled for August 27. He mentioned that these aspirants are exerting immense pressure, flooding key officials at the Karnataka Public Service Commission, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, and the Chief Minister's Office with phone calls and WhatsApp messages.

Atheeq stated, "A section of aspirants is spreading misinformation and trying to create an impression of a scam, using phrases like 'KPSC sutta Anumana gala Hutta!' to suggest numerous controversies. If the KPSC or the government gives in to this lobby of about 1,500 students who received extra chances and age relaxations, it will cause significant hardship and injustice to over 2.5 lakh other applicants who are already prepared, having booked their tickets to examination centres."

Many aspirants argue that their demand is for a fair examination process, given the ongoing controversies surrounding the KPSC. They believe the KPSC must address these issues transparently and ensure the exams are conducted impartially so that all candidates benefit equally and there is no room for nepotism or malpractice.

Atheeq stated, "Here are the key details regarding the examination schedule: The initial notification was issued on February 26, with the prelims initially scheduled for May 5. Due to elections on May 7, the exam was postponed first to July 7, and then to July 21 to avoid a conflict with a UPSC exam. A government order on June 21 granted an additional attempt to 2017-18 candidates who were age-barred. This change was announced on June 26, revising the exam date to August 25. By July 6, a simplified software system was developed to process applications from the 2017-18 batch, with the deadline set for July 21. Around 1,560 applications were received by that date. On July 1, the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection notification dates were released, although these had only been tentatively announced in January without formal online confirmation. The issue was discussed with the Chief Minister's office, resulting in a tweet on August 3 about the postponement. On August 5, a decision was made to reschedule the exam to August 27, ensuring it did not clash with other exams. By this date, no other exams were scheduled. A lot of preparation goes into organising an exam for over 2.5 lakh students, including a significant financial expenditure for printing papers. Given these facts, I urge the public to critically assess the situation and consider the claims of a small group of students disrupting with caution."

K'taka slated to choke on polluted air by 2030

Study shows that cities require around Rs 1,000 crore to implement control measures

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Researchers at the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), Bengaluru, have predicted that the levels of harmful pollutants in Karnataka cities will increase manifold by 2030, given the status quo.

Air pollution trends and projections of small particulate matter (PM2.5) concentration in three cities in Karnataka—Davanagere, Kalaburagi, and Hubballi-Dharwad—show that the level of this carcinogenic pollutant, in these cities may rise by 31%–38% in 2030 (relative to 2019 levels) in the absence of emission control measures.

The study also suggests that the cities will require a govt capital investment of Rs 582 to 968 crore to implement control measures and achieve clean air.

Researchers have estimated the shares of major polluting sectors—domestic, commercial, industry, construction and demolition, open burning, transportation (road and non-road), and road dust—in three non-attainment cities to arrive at this conclusion.

The transportation sector was the primary contributor to PM2.5 emissions in Hubballi-Dharwad and Kalaburagi, whereas industries and transportation were the major contributors to SO2 and NOx emissions in all three cities. Researchers suggest that implementing targeted interventions can reduce PM2.5 emissions in these cities.

"Davanagere should focus on making LPG cylinders easily acces-



Study's findings will be presented at CSTEP's sixth edition of India Clean Air Summit 2024

Prioritising the installation of diesel particulate filters in older commercial vehicles and increasing the LPG penetration rate will improve air quality

—Anirban Banerjee, researcher

sible. By increasing the LPG penetration rate to 93%, the city could witness a 37% reduction in PM2.5 emissions from the domestic sector and a 12% reduction in the total PM2.5 emissions," noted the CSTEP researchers.

The study has underlined that there are around 950 puffed rice mills present in Davanagere. Researchers suggest that the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) should encourage these puffed rice industries to switch to cleaner fuels and install bag filters to capture and control particulate matter at the source which could help achieve a 40% reduction in emissions within the industrial sector.

In Hubballi-Dharwad and Kalaburagi, heavy commercial vehicles (HCVs) contribute about 76% of the total emissions. Priority measures such as retrofitting diesel particulate filters in trucks older than 10 years, increasing public modal share through the introduction of

electric/CNG buses, promoting electric/CNG vehicles, and encouraging light commercial vehicle owners to shift to cleaner fuels need to be implemented.

"Prioritising the installation of diesel particulate filters in older heavy commercial vehicles and increasing the LPG penetration rate will help improve air quality in the cities," said Anirban Banerjee, a researcher at CSTEP who took the lead in conducting the study.

A portal showcasing the study's findings will be launched at CSTEP's sixth edition of the India Clean Air Summit (ICAS) 2024 conference on air pollution. The portal will provide detailed city-specific reports and insights for urban local bodies and citizens.

Non-bailable warrant against builder

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), New Delhi has ordered issuance of non-bailable warrant against Sushil Mantri for not complying with its order, in relation to the failure of refunding the refundable lump sum maintenance deposit collected from the flat owners residing at Mantri Residency on Bannerghatta Road.

According to the order issued by the NCDRC on January 31, 2022, Mantri Estate Management Private Limited and others had collected Rs 7,12,86,650 from 302 flat owners. It is said the maintenance contract with M/s Propcare Private Limited was done for a period of three years with effect from April 1, 2016 till March 31, 2019 and it is agreed that once the agreement is terminated or on expiry of the agreement, the refundable amount would be refunded to the flat owners.

According to the documents available with Bangalore Mirror, the maintenance agreement with M/s Propcare was terminated in February 2017. It is said that a temporary agreement was entered with M/s Propcare to continue the maintenance contract from April 1, 2017 till August 31, 2017 and thereafter the maintenance agency handed over the facility to the Mantri Residency Apartment Owners' Association. It is alleged that in spite of many reminders and persuasions by the flat owners for the return of the deposit, the opposite parties failed to refund the amount and it compelled the flat owners to approach the NCDRC for redressal.

"The respondents have paid the refundable lump sum maintenance deposit without interest amount to 137 flat owners. They are yet to pay the amount to the remaining flat owners," said Rajagopal Sethuraman, one of the flat owners.

Meanwhile, NCDRC ordered issuance of warrant against Sushil Mantri.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Four monkeys

Infosys Foundation chairperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murthy, recently narrated the story of 'four monkeys'. At the silver jubilee programme of NU Hospitals on Saturday, she said, "Once, a man who used to perform with monkeys in the streets came to our home with a special gift—a monkey. He wanted to show his gratitude for my father's successful surgery on his wife. My father, ever the humble doctor, gently declined the offer, saying that he already had four monkeys at home, and didn't want another. My father emphasised that the true value of the gesture lay not in the monkey itself, but in the heartfelt gratitude behind it."

Early morning classes

Union Minister of State for Railways, V Somanna, recently shared that he's diligently working on mastering Hindi. "I've been attending Hindi classes every day at 6 am in Delhi," Somanna revealed. "In another six months, I'll be addressing Parliament in

Hindi." Somanna has been tasked with welcoming the Prime Minister of Malaysia during his upcoming visit to India. When Somanna expressed his concerns about the language barrier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reassured him with a simple, "No problem, manage it and fulfill the responsibility."

Ceasefire?

Face-to-face discussions that lasted over an hour have sparked talks of a ceasefire between Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Public Works Minister Satish Jarakiholi after their unease over Shivakumar's 'interference' in Belagavi politics. However, Jarakiholi visited the DKS's residence on Monday, and the two leaders held a lengthy private discussion. Jarakiholi later told reporters, "I had visited him to discuss the appointment of new presidents for the Chikkodi, Belagavi, and Belagavi Rural district Congress committees, as he had requested a list of candidates for these positions."

Special room

During a recent event, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti shared a charming anecdote about his time with former Chief Minister Devaraj Urs. Horatti recounted how, back in the day, in the new wing of legislators' home Room No. 435 was assigned to Urs. Horatti wanted a spacious room and Room No. 435 was suggested. The process required Urs to formally consent in writing. Iyer contacted Urs. Within half an hour, Urs had sent the necessary written consent, and the room reassigned to Horatti. Horatti still resides in that room.

Nostalgic photo

At a recent exhibition organised by photo-journalists that was inaugurated by CM Siddaramaiah, one photograph caught Siddaramaiah's eye. It depicted a momentous occasion: Siddaramaiah, seated between former PM HD Deve Gowda and his son HD Kumaraswamy, in a moment of camaraderie. This snapshot, taken during a time when political alliances were different, was a poignant reminder of the past.

—Sridhar Vivan



BJP President BY Vijayendra during the Mysuru padyatra against the alleged MUDA scam on Aug 6, 2024

Z-Category security

In the wake of intense protests against Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot's decision to grant prosecution permission against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the 'MUDA' scam, the Governor has been assigned Z-category security and provided with a bulletproof vehicle. In light of security concerns, the Central Intelligence Department has advised the Governor to avoid public gatherings and events until August 29.

Classy Santissimo wins HPSL Derby in fine style

Ikram Khan

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Champion trainer Pesi Shroff did it again, leading in his third successive summer Derby winner on Super Sunday. The top pro who had struck it rich on Supernatural (2022), led in Jamari last year and in line for a Derby hat-trick, the champion pro judiciously prepared and sent out the favourite Santissimo spot on in the HPSL Bangalore summer Derby and the top colt readily produced another stellar effort to land the Derby riches, while making his trainer complete a coveted hat-trick of Derby wins at this premier centre.

After Santissimo went down fighting to African Gold in the Colts Championship, Pesi engaged Saqlain, who was learning the ropes in Australia, to guide the fortunes of the champion colt in the mega event, while Vivek, who partnered the star performer in the Colts Championship Stakes was listed to pilot the stablemate, The Panther in the showdown at sundown on D-day.

Satisfied with the preparations of his main-hope Santissimo, Pesi was quietly confident of his chances, knowing that the classy colt would stay the mile-and-a-quarter classic journey. Santissimo in the hands of Saqlain produced his best to edge out the Fillies champion, Excellent Lass in the final furlong to the delight of the Pesi camp. The fact that the good looking colt uncorked champagne in his bid to enter the

Satisfied with the readiness of Santissimo, Pesi was confident of his chances, knowing the colt would stay the mile-&-quarter journey

elite league pleased his trainer, who lauded the effort of both Saqlain and Santissimo in the classic clash. The exacting 2:03.58 seconds exercise across the park fetched the owners a rich purse of Rs, 1.18 crore.

The relatively inexperienced Positano from Sulaiman Attaollahi's yard in his only third career start made a fine impression to finish third ahead of Victor Hugo. The railbirds delighted with the result provided the winner, his proud trainer and the young jockey, who registered his maiden success in the blue riband a standing ovation. A delighted Saqlain lauded the effort of Santissimo. "He is a top class horse and he produced his best on the big day," said Saqlain adding that the star performer will only get better in the months head.

The Derby winning team apart, trainer James McKeown and Julien Moulin combined effec-



Champion trainer Pesi Shroff was leading in his third successive summer Derby winner on Super Sunday, at the HPSL Bangalore Summer Derby; visitors at the event pose for a picture

tively to record a double through the talented youngster John Wick and Once You Go Black. The latter came up trumps in the principal added attraction, the Coromandel Gromor BTC Anniversary Cup beating the public rage Shamrock in resplendent style, while John Wick proved too good for his seven rivals in the Mumbai Cup run over a distance of seven furlongs.

1. Press Reporters Trophy - 1200M: Infinite Spirit (V.Lokanath) 58.5 Faizan Khan 1, Sling Shot 61.5 Koshi Kumar 2, Akasi 61 Arvind Kumar 3, Pettes Love 58.5 Antony Raj 4. All Ran. 1/21, 3/41, Lnk. T: 1.14.36. Tote: Rs 180 (W). 38, 13, 45 (P). Fc: Rs 696. Q: Rs 293. Shp: Rs 46. Thp: Rs 100. Trinalla: Rs 43,201. Exacta: Rs 45,715. Fav: Sling Shot (Lokanath).

2. Turf Authorities Of India Trophy - 1600M: The Leader 56 Suraj 1, Desert Goddess 54.5 Sandesh 2, Star Honour 56 Vinod Shinde 3, Balmoral 54.5 Akshay Kumar 4. All Ran. 11, 5-1/41, 3/41. T: 1.38.02. Tote: Rs 12 (W). 10, 15, 61 (P). Fc: Rs 62. Q: Rs 43. Shp: Rs 33. Thp: Rs 133. Trinalla: Rs 1,022. Exacta: Rs 2,292. Fav: The Leader (Azhar Ali).

3. Indian Pattern Committee Trophy (Div-II) 1200M: Phenomenon (Rajendran) 58 Akshay Kumar 1, Mehra 55 R.N.Darshan 2, Rembrandt 58 Antony Raj 3, Debonair 52 R.Ahmed 4. Not Run: Immortal Beauty. 6-1/41, Hd,Nk. T: 1.12.90. Tote: Rs 15 (W). 10, 14, 14 (P). Fc: Rs 41. Q: Rs 37. Shp: Rs 33. Thp: Rs 45. Trinalla: Rs 137. Exacta: Rs 1,096. Fav:

Phenomenon (Dominic).

4. Mumbai Cup - 1400M: John Wick (K.H.Vachha) 52.5 S.J.Moulin 1, Blue God 55.5 Antony Raj 2, Anadale 54.5 Alex Rozario 3, Krystallos 51 Akshay Kumar 4. All Ran. 53/41, Nk, 1-1/41. T: 1.23.73. Tote: Rs 74 (P). 18, 12, 29 (P). Fc: Rs 301. Q: Rs 121. Shp: Rs 33. Thp: Rs 76. Trinalla: Rs 5,932. Exacta: Rs 28,148. Fav: Blue God (James McKeown).

5. Hyderabad Salver - 1800M: August (Arun Alagappan) 55 Antony Raj 1, Constable 55.5 G.Vivek 2, Magnus 58.5 Neeraj Rawal 3, Starkova 60 S.J.Moulin 4. All Ran. 1-1/41, 1/21, 3-1/21. T: 1.49.51. Tote: Rs 95 (W). 23, 15, 21 (P). Fc: Rs 186. Q: Rs 89. Shp: Rs 39. Thp: Rs 66. Trinalla: Rs 868. Exacta: Rs 19,432. Fav: Constable (Arjun Mangalorkar).

6. Coromandel Gromor B.T.C. Anniversary Cup - 1400M: Once You Go Black (Shiven Surendranath) 60 S.J.Moulin 1, Shamrock 58 Suraj 2, Yukan 55 Akshay Kumar 3, Iron Clad 54 Sai Kiran 4. Not Run: All Attractive. 1-1/41, 1-3/41, 1-1/41. T: 1.23.00. Tote: Rs 78 (W). 17, 10, 13 (P). Fc: Rs 218. Q: Rs 36. Shp: Rs 48. Thp: Rs 37. Trinalla: Rs 412. Exacta: Rs 2,508. Fav: Shamrock (James McKeown).

7. HPSL Bangalore Summer Derby - 2000M: Santissimo (Gautam Lala) 56 Saqlain Siddique 1, Excellent Lass 54.5 Suraj Narredu 2, Positano 56 Akshay Kumar 3, Victor Hugo 56 Alex Rozario 4. All Ran. 11, 11, 41. T: 2:03.58. Tote: Rs 28 (W). 16, 13, 21 (P). Fc: Rs 74. Q: Rs 35. Shp: Rs 37. Thp: Rs 44. Trinalla: Rs 350. Exacta: Rs 16,422. Fav: Santissimo (Pesi Shroff).

8. Indian Pattern Committee Trophy (Div-I) 1200M: La McQueen (Ganesan Subramanian) 58 Antony Raj 1, Magical Bay 58 Akshay Kumar 2, The Gallery Time 58 Sai Kiran 3, Fast Response 58.5 Koshi Kumar 4. Not Run: Bold Act. Shd, Shd, 3-1/41. T: 1.12.88. Tote: Rs 23 (W). 12, 16, 14 (P). Fc: Rs 58. Q: Rs 49. Shp: Rs 46. Thp: Rs 48. Trinalla: Rs 170. Exacta: Rs 1,320. Fav: La McQueen (Arjun Mangalorkar).

9. Kolkata Cup - 1400M: Own Legacy (A.C.Muthiah) 51.5 Rayan Ahmed 1, Aquamatic 61 Akshay Kumar 2, Klimt 55.5 Sandesh 3, Ardakan 50.5 Neeraj Rawal 4. Not Run: All Attraction. Lnk, 1-3/41, Shd. T: 1.25.58. Tote: Rs 500 (W). 66, 19, 31 (P). Fc: Rs 1,782. Q: Rs 1,189. Shp: Rs 51. Thp: Rs 86. Trinalla: Rs 87,216 (c/o). Exacta: Rs 97,369. Fav: Kallu Sakkare (S.Ganapathy).

Jackpot: Rs 7,80,439 (c/o); **Runner-Up:** Rs 7,433; **First Treble:** Rs 260; **Second Treble:** Rs 14,315 (c/o); **Third Treble:** Rs 4,494.

BM Finance Fundas

UPS for central govt employees: 5 important things to know

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for central government employees on Saturday. This scheme will be effective from April 1, 2025, and will benefit 23 lakh central government employees.

What is Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)?

The Central Government has launched the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), which provides government workers with a steady pension based on their length of service and most recent basic salary drawn.

According to the media reports, central government employees can select between the Unified Pension

Scheme (UPS) and the National Pension Scheme (NPS). Additionally, current NPS subscribers of the central government will have the choice to transfer to the UPS. State governments will also be able to choose to implement the Unified Pension Scheme shortly.

Let us now look at five important features of the Unified Pension Scheme, as per a Press Information Bureau release issued on August 25, 2024.

UPS: 5 important things to know Assured pension

For a minimum qualifying service of 25 years, 50% of the average basic salary drawn for the past 12 months prior to superannuation. Up to a



minimum of ten years of service, this compensation is to be commensurate with shorter service periods.

Assured family pension

60% of pension of the employee immediately before her/his demise.

Assured minimum pension

After at least ten years of service, @10,000 per month in superannuation.

Inflation indexation

On assured pension, on assured family pension and assured minimum pension. Dearness Relief based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW) as in case of service employees.

Lump sum payment at superannuation in addition to gratuity

1/10th of monthly emoluments (pay + DA) as on the date of superannuation for every completed six months

of service. This payment does not diminish the quantum of secured pension.

What is NPS

The Central Government had introduced the defined contribution-based Pension System known as the National Pension System (NPS) replacing the existing system of Defined Benefit Pension with effect from January 01, 2004.

In NPS, a government employee contributes towards pension from monthly salary along with a matching contribution from the employer. The funds are then invested in earmarked investment schemes through Pension Fund Managers.

—Sneha Kulkarni, ET Online

Stepfather allegedly kills 2 girls

Two minor girls were allegedly murdered by their stepfather in their home at Dasarahalli, near Amruthahalli police station limits, on Saturday afternoon.

The victims have been identified as Sushma and Soni, aged 16 and 14, who had been living with their mother and stepfather, Mohan, for the past nine years. The crime came to light when the victims' mother, who works in a garment factory, returned home around 3.30 pm to find her daughters lying dead in a pool of blood.

The police recovered a blood-stained machete from the scene which they believe could have been the weapon used in the attack. Mohan, who is a delivery executive, is currently on the run, with his phone unreachable.

The police suspect domestic issues as the motive behind the crime.

Denying wife French fries not cruelty, rules HC

The High Court has stayed the investigation into a case against a man for allegedly preventing his wife from eating French fries, after the delivery of their child in the US. Justice M Nagaprasanna found the allegations against the man to be trivial and therefore stayed the probe.

In his ruling, the judge remarked that continuing the investigation would amount to an abuse of the legal process. "Allowing any investigation against the husband would become an abuse of the process of law and putting a premium on the allegations of the wife that she was not given to eat French fries at the relevant point of time. Therefore, there shall be an interim order of stay on all investigation qua the husband," he said.

The woman's husband, who is employed in the United States, was also granted permission to return to his job after he assured the court that he would cooperate with the investigating authorities and not evade the process. The man's petition sought to stay the investigation, arguing that the complaint was frivolous. **PTI**

Offenders have option to pay up, skip jail

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust. Experts say the department should initiate an official WhatsApp group of the forest cell BBMP and circulate it among all the individuals and groups that are actively working towards protecting the city's green cover. The DCF should also publicise the number of cases booked under the offence.

Imprisonment mandatory?

The data on tree-related offence cases from BBMP also shows that financial penalties were imposed on offenders in all registered cases. City-based environmentalists say fines should be replaced with mandatory imprisonment as punishment.

Under the current provision of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, offenders have the option to pay money instead of facing prosecution and imprisonment as it is a compoundable offence. Imprisonment is considered only when a culprit is not in a position to pay the fine.

"There should be a provision for compulsory imprisonment under the Act. The forest department was supposed to approach the Karnataka Forest Minister to amend the law and to make

illegal tree felling a non-compoundable offence. It is important to make this change as these violations are mostly by people and organizations that can afford financial penalties. Imprisonment should be considered with or without fine, based on gravity of the offence," said Devare.

Earlier this year, the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), BBMP, BLG Swamy, had informed BM that to ensure stricter rules for killing or harming avenue trees, the department had approached the Karnataka forest minister and proposed an amendment to the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976. This was after multiple cases of citizens trying to harm and kill avenue trees came to light.

Thus, the idea behind the proposal is to make imprisonment of at least three months mandatory for unlawful killing or harming trees.

"Apart from making such offences non-compoundable, we have also requested the Forest Minister to increase the penalty amount. A meeting was called last week to discuss the proposal but it had to be deferred due to other commitments. However, we will soon reorganise the meeting and take up the issue with officials concerned from the Forest, Ecology and Environment Ministry of Karnataka," said Swamy.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Srinivasan S/o Mohan R/o No.186, 6th D cross, Gruhalakshmi Lyt, 8th Mile, Nelagadarahalli, Bengaluru 560073 have changed my name to Srinivas Mohan Affidavit Dt.23/08/2024 Notary Harisha.G, Bluru

I Nagaratna Ganapati Hegde W/O, Diwakara S L R/o J361 Brigade Plumeria Kanakapura Main Road Saaluhunase Kaggalipura Bengaluru Karnataka have changed my name to Nagaratna.

I, SHABEENA, R/a 4,Umar Nagar, opp. Immanuel High School, Bangalore-45, I, have changed my name to SYEDA SHABEENA, Vide affidavit dated 23/08/2024 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore

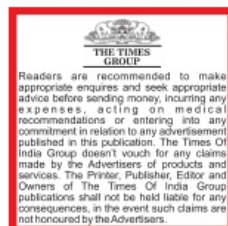
I Praveena GN s/o Nagaraju residing at No 96 1st main 4th cross Maruthi Nagar Jp Nagar 8th Phase Bangalore 560078, Have Changed my name to Praveen GN vide affidavit dated 21-08-2024 at Bangalore

I, GHOUSE SHARIFF HUSSAIN & GHOUSE SHARIEFF, R/a 24, Umar Bagh LYT, Sarakki Gate, Kanakapura Main Road, Banashankari, Bangalore-78, I, have changed my name to GHOUSE SHARIEFF, vide affidavit dated 23/08/2024 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore

I Christy Edward Daniel, W/o Vincy Chinnappan, R/o BG50, B Block, GM Infinity, Ecity Town Phase 1, Bengaluru-560099 have changed my name to Christy Edward

I Babita D/O, Prahlad Singh R/o R-1201, R Block, Purva Venezia, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore-560064 have changed my name to Babita Lakshan.

I Divya Raj have changed my name to Daniel Divya Raj vide affidavit dated 29-12-2007 before Notary Varija GJ, Bengaluru.



Heady mix: Traffic, infra, stress

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a child. A few days earlier, another victim, Jitin Raj, experienced a terrifying ordeal near Indira Nagar where he was harassed by a biker who aggressively chased and blocked his car.

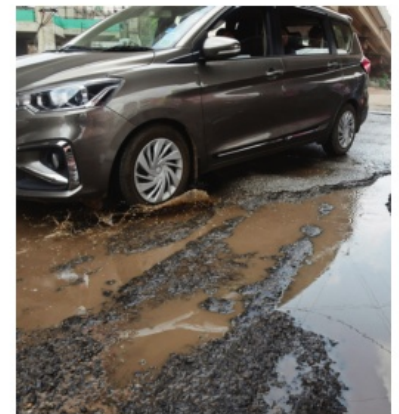
Bengaluru's traffic congestion is legendary, with snarled roads and bumper-to-bumper traffic becoming the norm. The city's rapid expansion has outpaced the development of its infrastructure, leading to a chaotic traffic environment. Drivers, stuck in endless jams, often find their patience running thin, which can easily escalate into road rage. The frustration of inching through traffic, coupled with the pressure to reach destinations on time, creates a perfect storm for aggressive behaviour.

Citizens say poor road conditions, inadequate signage, and poorly designed intersections contribute to the daily stress of driving in the city. The city's rapid population growth has also put additional strain on its roads. With more vehicles on the road, the likelihood of conflicts and accidents increases.

Several motorists BM spoke to attributed the rise in rage to driving culture in the city too. Aggressive driving habits, such as speeding, improper lane changing, and failure to yield, are common on the city's roads, they said. The lack of adherence to traffic rules further worsens the situation, as drivers engage in risky behaviours that can easily lead to heated arguments.

According to some the lack of enforcement of traffic regulations is an issue too. Insufficient policing and weak penalties mean that aggressive drivers often face no consequences for their actions.

Road rage is also deeply rooted in psychological and emotional issues.



According to Dr Lakshmi Shashikumar, psychologist at Maayra Emotional wellness centre, road rage could be because of various factors, like stress or frustration, difficulty in managing emotions such as anger, irritability or any unpleasant emotions.

She said, "Personality traits could also be the contributing factor for road rage. Risky behaviours such as impulsive decision making, consumption of alcohol or any other substances could be the trigger.

Environmental factors like traffic could also lead to such rage. Differences in the thought process or lack of self control are also causes."

Some citizens have tips that they follow and advise others to do too. "It's important to advise drivers to remain calm and patient, regardless of the situation. Practising patience, maintaining a safe distance from other vehicles, and avoiding aggressive gestures or language can go a long way in preventing road rage. It's important to remember that the goal is to arrive safely at your destination, not to win a battle on the road," said a citizen.

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In June 2024, 13 young people in Hawaii took on their state government in court and won the right to have greater input in climate policy. They sued the state for infringing on their right to “a clean and healthful environment”, as promised under the State constitution. In victory, the young people forced a number of concessions including a pledge to pursue net zero by 2040 and over USD 40 million investment in electric vehicles over the next six years.

Young people are turning to activism as a way to process the emotional weight of a world in crisis. From Greta Thunberg to Australia’s Anjali Sharma, there are plenty of people in Gen Z who are taking action on climate.

Despite the United Nations also adding the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2022 which further opens the possibility to take governments to the courts, it’s not easy. Gen Z is growing up in an era where the impacts of climate change are both immediate and undeniable and it’s leaving them feeling powerless.

Generation Z — those born between 1995 and 2010 — make up 30 per cent of the global population. Unlike previous generations, who had time to gradually adjust to the realities of environmental transformations, Generation Z is acutely aware of the ecological crises unfolding around them, leading to a deep sense of environmental anxiety.

Distress and fear

As a result, many digitally connected, globally aware Gen Zers experience intense climate anxiety, characterised by chronic fear, distress and deep concern for the planet’s future.

A survey of Australian Gen Z university students was conducted between September 2021 and April 2022 with 446 participants which revealed that climate change is their top environmental concern.

They often feel let down by older generations, governments and institutions, whose actions seem inadequate in the face of the growing evidence about the environmental threats the world faces.

More than 80 per cent of the young people participating in the survey expressed significant worry and many experiencing severe climate anxiety. This anxiety manifests in various forms, including eco-anxiety, solastalgia (distress triggered by environmental changes) and climate grief, reflecting the complex emotional landscape of a generation coming of age amid a global environmental emergency.

The situation Gen Z faces and their future prospects are further exacerbated by the complexity of other developments resulting in what is known as a polycrisis, a “great disagreement, confusion, or suffering that is caused by many different problems happening at the same time so that they together have a very big effect.”

Existential threat

Eco-anxiety, a chronic fear of an



What we can do about Gen Z’s climate anxiety

environmental catastrophe, arises from the perception that climate change poses an existential threat.

For many in Gen Z, the overwhelming nature of this threat leads to persistent worry and stress. This is also fuelled by the sense of urgency and responsibility they think they have to comply with. Gen Z are witnessing their local natural environments and the broader global ecosystem undergo rapid, destructive and irreversible changes, including biodiversity loss, species extinction and degradation of ecosystems.

Many experience profound grief which is tied not just to physical harms, but also to the loss of hope for a stable and prosperous future.

With 96% of Australian Gen Zs believing that climate change is human-made, young people are experiencing heightened levels of stress, anxiety and depression as they grapple with the realities of a warming planet. For some members of Gen Z, the constant stream of climate-related news, coupled with personal experiences of climate related calamities, such as wildfires, floods, droughts or cyclones, leads to a form of trauma that can have long-lasting effects on mental health.

A generational crisis

For Gen Z, climate change anxiety is not just about fear of environmental destruction; it is also about grappling with a crisis of identity and purpose. As they come of age in a world that seems increasingly unpredictable, many young people are questioning what kind of future they can expect to have, and whether it is even ethical to plan for the future in traditional ways, such as pursuing professional careers, starting families or buying homes, when the planet is in such peril.

This crisis of identity is further complicated by the pressure to act. Many young people feel a deep sense of responsibility to address climate change, but this can also ignite feelings of guilt and shame when they perceive their actions as insufficient.

The weight of this responsibility can be overwhelming, leading to burnout and a sense of futility.

The role of activism

In response to these challenges, some members of Gen Z are channelling their anxiety into activism.

Climate activism is seen as a way to regain a sense of control and agency in the face of over-

whelming challenges.

This activism takes many forms, from participating in global climate strikes to advocating for sustainable policies at the local level. However, activism is not a panacea for climate anxiety. This is seen from the answers of 65 per cent of Australia’s university Gen Z who do not engage in traditional climate activism, but instead are using technology and social media to voice their concerns.

While it can provide a sense of purpose and community, activism can also be exhausting. The constant need to fight for change, coupled with the slow pace of progress, can lead to burnout and exacerbate mental health issues.

Additionally, the pressure to always be “on” and engaged in activism can be mentally and emotionally draining.

Mental health support

Given the significant mental health challenges posed by climate change anxiety, there is a growing recognition of the need for robust mental health support for Gen Z.

This support must be tailored to address the unique challenges of climate anxiety, experiencing unprecedented levels of fear and despair, and feelings of hopelessness that are so prevalent among young people.

There is a need for more mental health professionals trained to understand and address eco-anxiety and related issues. Therapeutic interventions that focus on building resilience, fostering a sense of agency and helping young people navigate their complex emotions are crucial. Building supportive communities where young people can share their experiences, particularly positive outcomes, and feelings about climate change is also important. These communities can provide a sense of solidarity and help combat the isolation that often accompanies climate anxiety. Schools and educational institutions can play a key role in addressing climate anxiety by incorporating discussions about mental health and climate change into their curricula.

By providing young people with the tools to understand and cope with their emotions, educational initiatives can help mitigate the psychological impacts of climate anxiety.

The way forward

The challenges posed by climate change anxiety for Gen Z are indeed profound and multifaceted.

However, the importance and urgency of their role cannot be overstated. With the climate crisis in a time of polycrisis worsening, Gen Z’s involvement in shaping a resilient and sustainable future is critical. Their unique perspective and relentless drive for change position them as key players in responding to global warming as well as in bridging generational divides, fostering global cooperation and ensuring that climate action is grounded in science and equity.

(By Diana Bogueva and Dora Marinova, Curtin University, 360info.ORG)



All you need to know about...

5 benefits of pista

Protein powerhouse

Pistachios are a complete vegetarian protein source, with six gram per serving. They contain all nine essential amino acids that human beings need to function optimally. These amino acids are crucial for making and repairing tissues, producing enzymes.

Immunity edge

Pistachios boast a whopping 30 vitamins (such as vitamins A, E, C, B (except B12), K, and folate), minerals (potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, calcium), and antioxidants (lutein, flavonoids, anthocyanins). They help build our body’s defense against free radicals, which are unstable molecules that can damage cells.

Heart health

Pistachios can be part of a heart-healthy diet since they are naturally cholesterol-free. Medical research has shown that the number of women falling prey to heart diseases and cardiac arrests is steadily on the rise, necessitating a heart-healthy diet. According to the US FDA, research suggests that 1.5 ounces of pistachios as part of a balanced diet might reduce the risk of heart disease.

Weight management

Weight management in urban India is a common cause of concern, and these nuts can help! They are the perfect combination of protein, fibre and unsaturated fats, along with their sensory crunchiness, keep us feeling fuller for longer, and induce satiety quicker than many other healthy snacks, halting further consumption. This can lead to them being a very healthy snacking option.

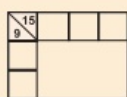
Versatile

Pistachios are incredibly versatile and nutrient-dense nuts that can be enjoyed in many ways. They can be a snack, and can be used in a variety of dishes according to a person’s choice. Snack on them or add them to meals, but make them a part of your diet!

—Femina

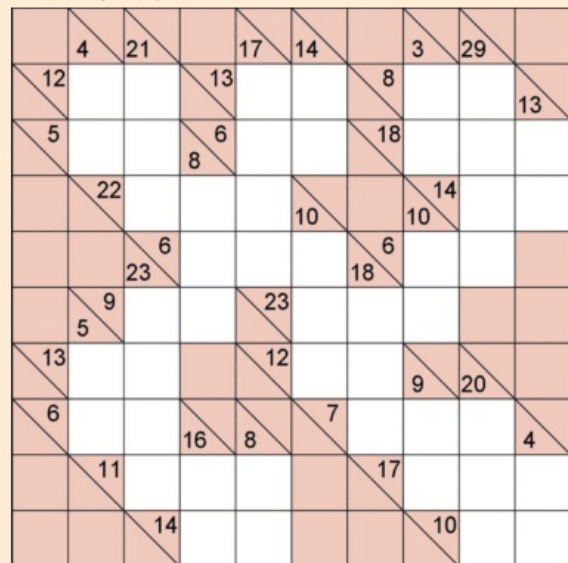
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

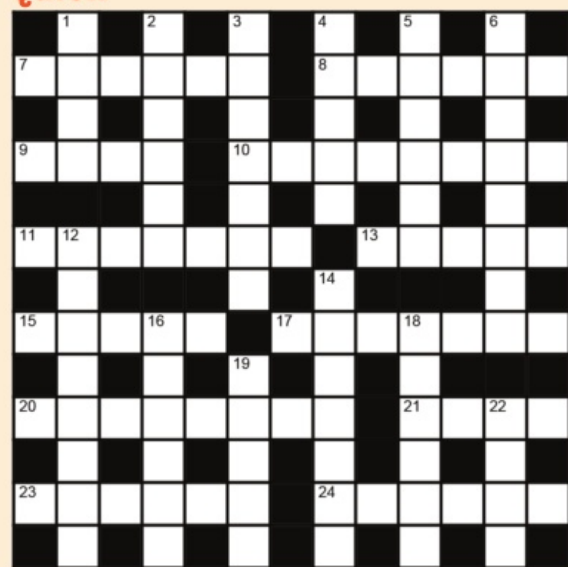


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 The ___ estate : the press? (6)
- 8 Colour of cowardice? (6)
- 9 Female birds (4)
- 10 Depend or trust? (4,4)
- 11 Go along with (5,2)
- 13 A strong beer? (5)
- 15 Grown-up (5)
- 17 Unpaid player (7)
- 20 ___ of Light : Divali, of course? (8)
- 21 Her basilica is located in Shivalinagar (4)
- 23 Mature, soften with age (6)
- 24 Imposing a penalty (6)

DOWN

- 1 Having no company (4)
- 2 Deleted or rubbed out (6)
- 3 By means of that (7)
- 4 African antelope (5)
- 5 Show off (6)
- 6 Capital of Hawaii (8)
- 12 Annoyed, heckled or persecuted (8)
- 14 Enlarge or swell; magnify (7)
- 16 Small (6)
- 18 Domesticating or training (6)
- 19 Declares or promises (5)
- 22 Short person (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS T
FYB QETDBM CU FYB IKKB
KVCEBK, AWUF UTUPBM
EXWPYK.



Linemaro

There are three kinds of beautiful: cute, pretty, sexy. You're all three.



Mindchow

Sucking at something is the first step to being good at something



Joke of the day

I started a band called 999 Megabytes. We haven't gotten a gig yet

Loop

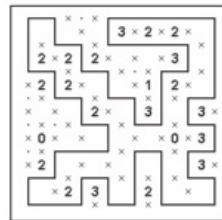
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

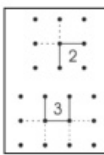
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

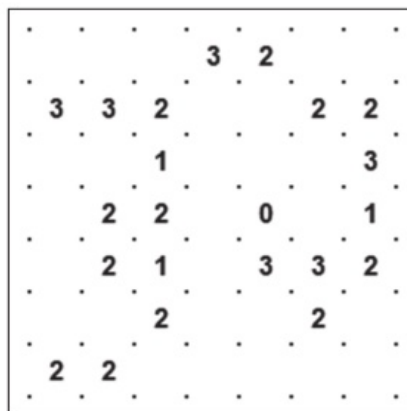
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



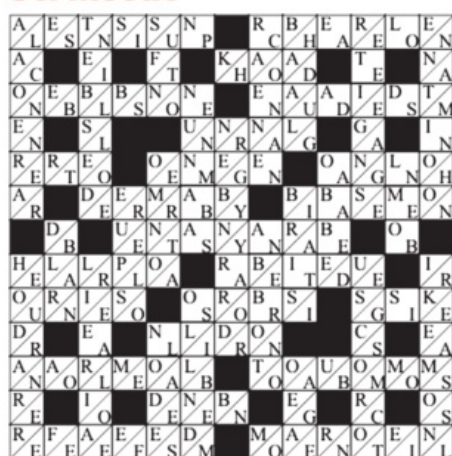
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



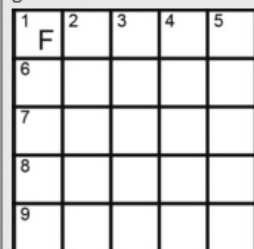
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

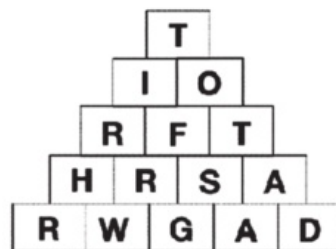
- 1 Snafu; 6 Dam it;
- 7 Lanai; 8 Melon;
- 9 Using

DOWN

- 1 All SF; 2 A due I;
- 3 I a mum; 4 No inn;
- 5 Angst

Mensapuzzle

Below is a common word. See if you can unscramble the letters to come with the right answer



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

4 4 6 7 = 5

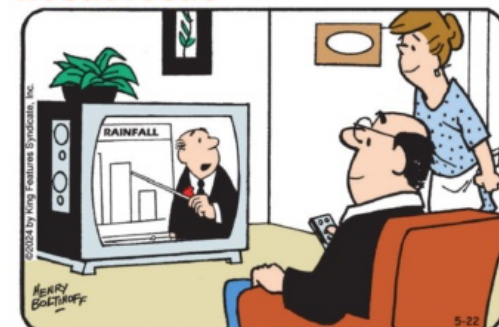
Medium

2 5 8 9 = 24

Hard

1 5 6 4 = 40

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. TV stand legs are longer. 2. Remote control is longer. 3. Pillow is added. 4. Elbow patch is added. 5. Side table is added. 6. Apron is missing.

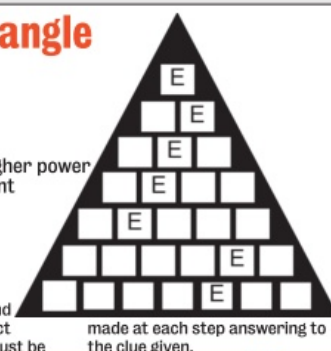
Riddler

The following list of words can be arranged into four groups, with three words per group. Part of the teaser is to figure out why they can be grouped like this, but check the hint if you need help. Able, Care, Disc, Free, Ions, King, Less, Ness, Over, Stat, Thin, Work

Alpha triangle

- 1 Second vowel
- 2 Delaware, abbr.
- 3 Scarlet
- 4 Precious
- 5 Prepared
- 6 Appealed to a higher power
- 7 Window treatment

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



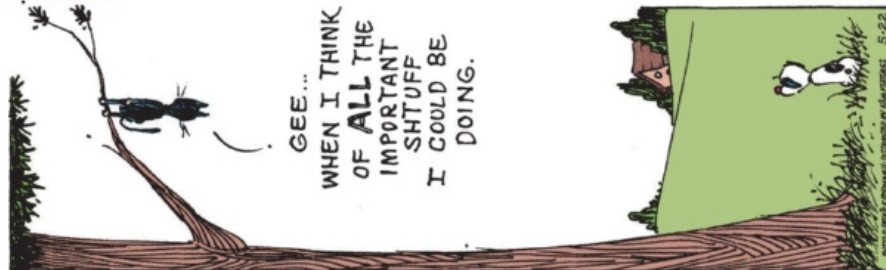
Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today is good for your work. You may be able to perform well in terms of work. Your boss may likely give you new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Disputes with the partner may be settled down. You may lend money to make your assets. Your kid's health may be better now. You may likely make investments for kids' futures.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, with the help of blessings, you may have control over your indecisiveness. Kids' health is better now. Your colleagues may be supportive of your work, which will convert into success in terms of the project. You may expect to get incentives with the salary. Natives related to dairy, water projects, grains, homemaker art and culture may do well.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today you will be busy with a family get-together. You may re-establish your network, which will give you benefits shortly. Natives related to glamour, art, fashions, films, and media may plan to do something new in terms of their profession. Students may perform better today in terms of study. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today you may be blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff may support you. Investments in gems and jewellery may likely give positive gains shortly. You should be careful about your elders' health.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, you may plan to migrate from your current place to another place. It is advised to think twice before making decisions regarding migration or change of place. You may also plan to change jobs. There will be peace of mind. Your kid's health might make you upset. It is advised to avoid speculation in the investments. Love birds shall keep patience before making an important decision in terms of marriage.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today you may be busy on the work front, which may make you mentally tired and may affect your routine. You may be able to create an overseas network. You should be careful in terms of investments. Natives in the job may get a promotion.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

You may be happy due to a blessing from the auspicious planetary combination. You may have some sort of energy which may create your prestige among people around you. You may spend your time studying.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you may have good patience. Meditation may help you to increase concentration, which may help to speed up your project. Your subordinates may cooperate with you, it may help you to complete the project before the timeline. You may likely go on short travels, related to work. An influential person may help you to boost your network.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, the situation is under control now. Your destiny may likely be with you in terms of gains from past investments. You may get rewards for your hard work. Projects that were stopped without a reason, may likely be reinitiated. You may expect peaceful religious travel. You may also plan to donate an amount to any religious place or charity.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today the start of the day may be dull. After late evening, you may control negativity. New people may connect with you on the work front. With the help of new people, you may try to revamp your business plans. It is advised to read documents before putting your signature.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you may be busy with family get-togethers and social events. You may become polite with the people around you, which may increase your prestige among them. You may spend money on buying some artefacts or household stuff which may improve your social status. You may likely hear good news from one of your relatives.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today, your moon is not positive. You may have health issues. You may face losses in the business or past investments. It is advised not to invest in business. Your gains will convert into losses. So you are advised to stop making investments in worthless objects. You should avoid being involved in controversies, otherwise it will pull you down negatively.



KIDZONE



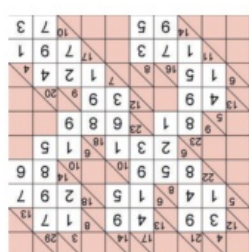
Anagha Kumar M,
14 Years,
Delhi Public School



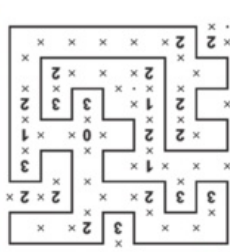
Tanisha R,
9 Years,
Vidyaniketan Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

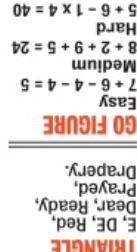
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



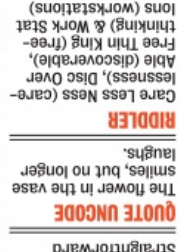
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULLS' EYE



SOLVE IN 10

Key to happiness

Tamannaah Bhatia reveals what makes her a 'happy human'

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia does not need much to be happy, going by what she has shared on social media. The actress took to her Instagram, where she shared two glimpses. The first is a video, where she seems to be a little grumpy sitting in the backseat of her car. She is seen dressed in a green striped outfit.

She captioned the clip: "Do you want to see a happy human?" The second glimpse

was a photograph, where she is seen holding a croissant and a hot cup of joe. The actress is seen smiling ear-to-ear.

Few days ago, Tamannaah shared a sneak-peek of her favourite vegetable. Confessing her love to bhindi (lady finger), the actress shared a selfie picture, wherein she can be seen wearing a white outfit and sitting in a car.

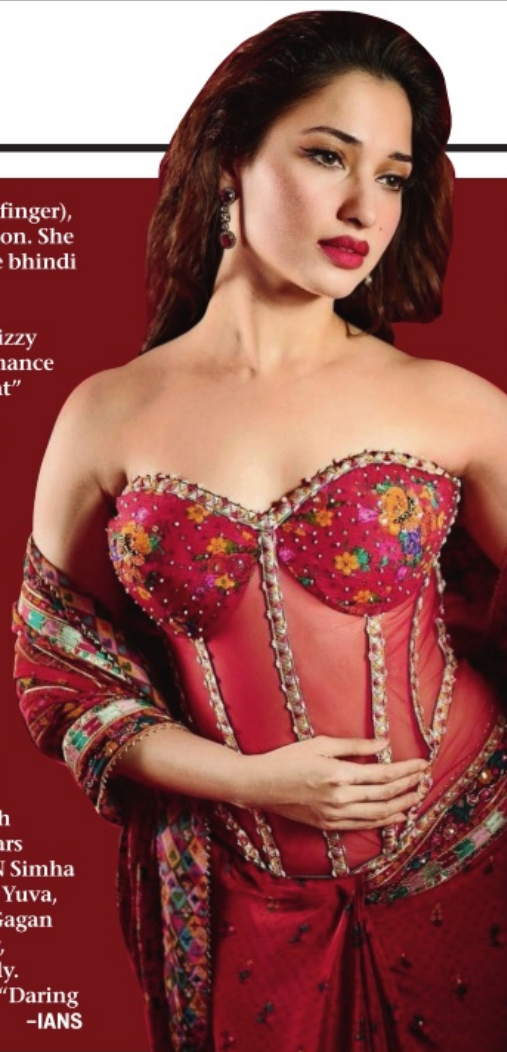
The picture was captioned: "Lunch mein kya hain". She then showed her lunch box. It

includes 'bhindi' (lady finger), quinoa, lentils and lemon. She tagged it as: "For all the bhindi lovers in the house".

On the work front, Tamannaah created a tizzy with her dance performance on the song "Aaj Ki Raat" in the comedy horror film "Stree 2," directed by Amar Kaushik. A spiritual sequel to the 2018 movie "Stree", it stars Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkummar in the lead, alongside Pankaj Tripathi, Abhishek and Aparshakti Khurana.

Tamannaah will next be seen in the Telugu supernatural thriller film "Odela 2" directed by Ashok Teja and created by Sampath Nandi. The film also stars Hebah Patel, Vasishta N Simha in lead roles, alongside Yuva, Naga Mahesh, Vamsi, Gagan Vihari, Surender Reddy, Bhupal and Pooja Reddy.

The actress also has "Daring Partners" in her kitty. **-IANS**



On a new note



Music director Santhosh Narayanan, who has scored music for around 50 Tamil and Telugu movies, debuts in Sandalwood with Balaramana Dinagalu. Vinod Prabhakar plays the lead in this film directed by KM Chaitanya. This is Chaitanya's 10th movie and the 25th for Prabhakar.

A function was held on Friday to welcome Santhosh Narayanan to Sandalwood. "My mother taught me to speak Kannada. I am a frequent visitor to Bengaluru. I am happy to score music for Balaramana Dinagalu. It is my 51st movie as a music director. I remember my teachers music maestro Ilayaraja and AR Rahman. I worked as a programmer for Raghu Dixit's song Ninna Poojege Bande Mahadeshwara. I am a fan of music directors Ajaneesh Loknath and Ravi Basrur," said Narayanan.

Prabhakar said Narayanan is known for scoring music for gangster movies. "The team of Balaramana Dinagalu decided to have Santhosh Narayanan on board as the movie belongs to the gangster genre. It was not easy for us to convince him. He agreed to join our team only after going through the movie's script in May," said Prabhakar.

Pure love



Director Muthu Raj, who is known for directing Young Man in a single take, is all set to direct his next Lip Lock. Its muhurat function was held at Sri Bande Mahakali Temple. Producer Hemanth Krishnamurthy's sister Spoorthy sounded the clapperboard while director Muthu Raj's son Likhith Gowda switched on the camera. Prominent personalities from Sandalwood attended the function.

Muthu Raj said that the movie has nothing to do with a kiss. "Lip Lock is a pure love story. It can be watched by whole family members without any hesitation. The shooting of the movie is being held in and around Bengaluru," said Raj. The director said Karan Aryan, Trivikram and Hemanth Kumar are playing key roles in the movie. Hemanth Krishnamurthy said he is making debut as a producer in Sandalwood with this movie that is being bankrolled under the Hemanth Cinemas and Pari Movies banner.

Karan Aryan will play a youngster from a middle-class family.

New look

Samantha Ruth Prabhu who is gearing up for 'Citadel: Honey Bunny', made heads turn when she attended the event in her stunning black crop top outfit.

Now, the pictures and videos from the event have surfaced on the internet. However, the actress sparked concern among her fans with her noticeable 'transformation,' as some users pointed out her recent 'weight loss' in a video from the event.

A Redditor shared a clip of Samantha posing for photographers at the event, commenting, 'Is Samantha okay? This transformation doesn't seem healthy.'

Several fans expressed their concerns in the comment section about Samantha's health. One fan remarked that the actress looked entirely

unrecognizable, while others speculated that she had lost a significant amount of weight. 'What happened to her? She's not looking the same,' one fan noted. Another added, 'I didn't recognize her until I read the caption. Her face has changed so much!' A third comment observed, 'She looks extremely lean, and her face is almost unrecognizable.'

Back in 2022, Samantha disclosed that she had been diagnosed with an autoimmune condition called myositis. She took time off from her career to focus on her health. **-ETimes**



Surrounded by nature

Laapataa Ladies" star Pratibha Ranta missed being surrounded by nature after her friends took her for a small trek.

Pratibha, who hails from Himachal Pradesh, took to Instagram, where she shared a string of pictures and clips from her trek at an undisclosed location.

Talking about the trek, Pratibha said it felt like home to her. "This morning, my friends dragged me for a small trek and even though I

was so sleep deprived, the moment I got there, it weirdly felt like home," she penned.

"Having grown up in the mountains, I didn't realise how much I just missed being surrounded by nature. I can't believe that this is the first time I've actually done this after living in this city for almost half a decade now," wrote the actress.

"Can't wait to do this again and make a ritual out of it! Uff, my heart is so happyyy." Pratibha made her acting debut in 2020 with the show "Qurbaan Hua", where she played Chahat Baig Bhatt Dhyani opposite Karan Jotwani. The series concluded in 2021. She made her web debut with "Aadha Ishq." **-IANS**

Jenna Ortega reveals why she hates AI

Wednesday" star Jenna Ortega says she had a disturbing experience with artificial intelligence as a teen when she came across morphed pornographic images of herself, something which led her to delete her X account and be wary of new technology.

During a conversation on "The Interview" podcast for The New York Times, the 21-year-old said it was a "terrifying" time for her. "I hate A.I... Did I like being 14 and making a Twitter account because I was supposed to and seeing dirty edited content of me as a child?

No. It's terrifying. It's corrupt. It's wrong," she said.

When she was 12, Ortega recalled receiving a direct message (DM) on X (formerly Twitter) along with "an unsolicited photo of a man's genitals".

"I used to have that Twitter account and I was told that, 'Oh, you got to do it, you got to build your image'. I ended up deleting it about two, three years ago because the influx after the show had come out — these absurd images and photos, and I already was in a confused state that I just deleted it." **-PTI**

